

a budget we would like to control in some way, and the States are hooked on the money we keep giving to them, with the fear if they lose the money, they will also lose control of the programs, which they don't have right now in the first place.

David Walker wrote a book called *The Rebirth of Federalism*, and in it he said from the period of 1964 to 1980 there was something that he called creeping conditionalism that came into this country. As he wrote, "There was a perennial Congressional tendency to impose strings and the more recent habit of adding regulations and mandates. The tendency even among block grants was and is to acquire conditions." We can see that in some of the programs like Safe Streets, CETA and CDBG.

In addition to that, there is a cost that is developed by the States for this Federal programming help. For example, in his book he also talks about the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1986, which now impose estimated costs of \$2 billion to \$3 billion annually on public water systems. That is money that must be raised by local taxpayers to pay for mandates and requirements of the Federal Government on this program, that was originally supposed to be a sharing concept.

The Education For the Handicapped Act, passed in 1968, now averages \$500 million annually of additional costs to State and local government. It has been estimated, he said, from 1983 to 1990, additional mandates that the Federal Government imposed upon State and local governments, somewhere between \$8 and \$13 billion in additional costs. Which simply means, as the old adage says, the only thing that is worse than an unfunded mandate is actually a funded mandate.

Now, is there blame to go around? Yes, on both our sides. Blame on the Federal Government because we become too involved in too many projects in a kind-hearted effort to try and help people. There is also blame for the State governments, who take this too much, become too entrapped and need these programs and these funds to continue on. And though both of us are unhappy with the situation, we keep lumbering on with the same concept and the same program. Both of us, the Federal and State governments, find ourselves in a trap, and both of us, if we are going to improve, have got to some day realize we have to let go of the cheese.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that you are yielding the time to us, and we are really pleased to be on the floor tonight to talk about some of the work that we have done over the past few weeks.

Before we start, I do want to say that we are very mindful that this is Memorial Day weekend. We are all looking forward to going home and being with our constituents, and we are very respectful and appreciative of the families who have served our Nation who have given the ultimate sacrifice, and we want to express to those families our continued condolences for their losses, and we also want to express to them our thanks for how they have sacrificed and served and helped to further the cause of freedom.

We would not have the opportunity to stand in this hall, this wonderful People's House tonight, if it were not for the brave men and women who serve in uniform to protect our freedom. Because they are so important to us, we have passed some legislation, the Respect For Fallen Heroes Act, which will preserve the dignity of the men and women who have lost their lives and show respect for those families. That passed this afternoon in this body, and we thank Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. BUYER, who chairs our Veterans Affairs Committee, for their work on those efforts.

Mr. SIMMONS, the gentleman from Connecticut, and I have filed a bill this week which is the Veterans Identity Theft Protection Act. It is H.R. 5464. This was done in response to the egregious, egregious leak and actions from the Veterans Affairs Department and the employee there who lost the identity information of 26.5 million of our veterans.

We are going to be moving forward on that legislation to protect and try

to make right that situation with our veterans when we return. This is something that should not have occurred. It is a failure of the bureaucracy, and it is something that the Members of this House are moving forward to address.

Before we get into talking about our successes in this body, the bills that we have passed, the legislation that we are working hard on for the American people, I want to say a little bit about the immigration legislation. And after we finish our conversation this evening, we are going to finish up with more conversation on the immigration legislation that our friends across the dome in the Senate passed.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to tell you that the legislation that the other body passed, in my opinion, is a form of amnesty. I have been and remain solidly opposed to amnesty, and I do stand opposed to that legislation that they have passed.

I do continue to support the bill that we passed in the House last fall and sent to the Senate. We know that the Members of this body are going to continue to stand solid that we need to secure our Nation's border first, first and foremost, and regain the trust and confidence of the American people, and make certain that they know that we value, we value, what this Nation stands for and that the sovereignty of this Nation indeed is worth fighting for.

As we talk about where we have concentrated our efforts through the first part of this year, I want to draw attention to a couple of things. We have passed tax relief. We have taken actions and the President signed into law last week the tax reconciliation bill which addressed some of the tax issues, extensions that we had passed previously. We know that there is a second bill that will come within the next few weeks as we address other extensions of tax reductions.

We know that these work. We know that tax reductions work, and we know that this has helped to fuel the economic growth that we are seeing in this country.

We know that the 18 quarters of sustained economic growth are because this economy is robust. We know that the Federal Government doesn't create jobs, it is the free enterprise system that creates these jobs. So, knowing this and realizing this, is the reason that we had the tax relief signed into law last week.

We have also passed a budget, a budget bill that for the second year in a row will put us on the path to deficit reduction. This is so important, Mr. Speaker. It is important for a couple of different reasons, because when we work toward reducing what the Federal Government spends, when we work toward reining in the size of the Federal Government, we know that that helps with our economy. We know that that is a step in the right direction.

You know, one of the things on our economy I do want to mention is that